

Central Intelligence Agency



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China's Afghanistan Policy

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Beijing is clearly skeptical that the Soviets are prepared to make genuine concessions to Pakistan in the Geneva talks or agree to a settlement that yields anything less than a Soviet-dominated regime in Kabul:

- The Chinese probably calculate that chances are slim that Moscow will agree to speedily withdraw its troops. Beijing probably estimates that a speedy Soviet withdrawal--at a time when the stability of the Kabul regime is at its lowest since the Soviet invasion--would virtually ensure its collapse.
- Beijing's parochial equity is that, should the Soviet Union gain some measure of international recognition for the regime in Kabul, international opinion might shift to legitimize the Heng Samrin regime in Cambodia.

As with the Cambodian resistance, Beijing takes an optimistic, long-term view that the Afghan resistance can continue the fight indefinitely. We estimate China increased its military assistance to the Afghan resistance by some 20 to 30 percent in 1986, contributing \$65 million in heavy and light arms to the Mujahedin:



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- Heavier Chinese weapons in Mujahedin hands include 14.5mm antiaircraft guns, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, 107mm multiple rocket launchers, and the Chinese equivalent of the Soviet SA-7 portable surface-to-air missiles.
- By comparison, China provides the Khmer Rouge resistance in Cambodia some \$25 million in annual assistance.

China has also trained at least 100 Afghan insurgent commanders over the past three years:

- A senior Chinese Embassy officer in Kabul told US diplomats in December 1986 that he recommended Beijing expand its training role.

China did, however, cut back its direct contacts with the insurgents last year because of Islamabad's insistence.

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- All assistance is now funneled through Pakistan, and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told Ambassador Lord in April 1986 that China is seeking Pakistani approval before agreeing to provide any training for Afghan insurgents in China. As a result, resistance requests for courses in using Chinese equipment and battlefield medicine tapered off last year and fewer Mujahedin fighters were trained in China.
- Beijing may be exploring alternative arrangements for providing aid to the resistance through Iran.

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